

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



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Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CASES OF WHOOPING COUGH, ALSO KNOWN AS PERTUSSIS,
CONFIRMED IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**

-Indian River County Health Department recommends protecting yourself and others from Whooping Cough/Pertussis -

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FL Whooping Cough also known as pertussis (*Bordetella pertussis*), is a serious illness that could potentially affect anyone. Indian River County Health Department has recently confirmed two adult cases of pertussis. "Two cases are significant when you take into account the seriousness of this disease, the ease at which it spreads, and the fact that no cases have been confirmed in our county in 3 years" advised Maureen Feaster, Indian River County Health Department Nurse Consultant, Epidemiology Supervisor.

Pertussis is highly contagious. Control and prevention among adults prevents infection in infants and young children, in which it is a serious and potentially life-threatening disease. Adults with pertussis can suffer complications and require hospitalization. Therefore, proper diagnosis, appropriate treatment and prevention is important.

A typical case of pertussis starts with a cough, runny nose, sneezing and a low-grade fever. After one-two weeks, the coughing becomes more severe. Rapid coughing fits can occur that often end with a whooping sound. **Not all cases are typical**, which is why Indian River County Health Department encourages residents to **see their doctor if they have had a cough for three weeks or more**. Pertussis is spread when infected individuals cough or sneeze while in close contact with others.

To protect against pertussis, adults are encouraged to get immunized with the Tdap vaccine. Tdap vaccine provides protection from tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. Tdap vaccine is especially important for health care professionals and anyone having close contact with a baby younger than twelve months. Even if infants are up to date with their vaccines, they are not yet fully protected from this potentially deadly bacteria. This is why vaccination of adults with whom they have contact is so important.

Pertussis signs and symptoms may not always mimic what is considered typical, so take an active role in protecting yourself and get vaccinated. Adults who have had a cough for three weeks or greater are asked to see their doctor to rule out pertussis as the cause.

For more information on pertussis/Whooping Cough go to www.cdc.gov/pertussis or contact Indian River County Health Department at 772-794-7472.

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Florida Department of Health

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